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### MISCELLANY.

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**Settlement of Labor Disputes Abroad.**—The labor unrest is by no means confined to England: it extends over the whole of Europe, and every country is endeavoring to find machinery for the peaceful settlement of the collective disputes between employers and workmen which menace the industrial life of the State. Hence, the lecture which Professor Bauer, of Basle, gave at the London University on Wednesday, upon Foreign Systems of Industrial Conciliation was of peculiar interest. The lecturer pointed out that the model of all Conciliation Boards was to be found in the French *Conseils de Prudhommes*, which dates back to the fifteenth century, when they were appointed to settle disputes and divide profits in the fishing trade. Napoleon I., in 1809, extended their sphere by law, and directed their appointment for all industries and over the whole country. Their weakness was that they could only judge questions about existing contracts, and also that they had no compulsory powers. The French Miners' Strike in 1892 led to the establishment of new machinery, which, however, was also voluntary in character. The Justices of the Peace were empowered to act as conciliators in any labor dispute upon the consent of the parties, while eight years later *Conseils d'Industrie* were constituted to act before the dispute arose. Hitherto, the proposals to set up a permanent Arbitration Board with compulsory powers have not been accepted by the French Legislature; but the need for some such body is generally felt. The conciliation machinery of Germany, Italy, and other Continental countries is similar in character to the French, but elements of compulsion have been introduced. Thus a German Act of 1901 made appearance by both parties before the Industrial Courts obligatory; and in Denmark it is compulsory on both parties to give evidence before the Board. The most novel and elaborate proposals, however, for settling labor troubles have been carried out in the Swiss Canton of Basle, where a law of 1911 established a Permanent State Board of Conciliation, with large compulsory powers. It has jurisdiction over all private industries, and in the first place it aims to conciliate the parties; failing that, it invites them to submit the matter to arbitration, and the Government may, when it chooses, insist on arbitration. The Board consists of three neutral members, none of whom may be connected with industry: but if arbitration is accepted, industrial experts are appointed from among persons not directly interested in the dispute. The experience of the Continent, like that of the Colonies and of our own country, goes to show that voluntary conciliation bodies are no longer adequate, and that we must set up some permanent tribunal with compulsory powers of arresting strikes in the first place, leaving the final sanction when arbitration fails to public opinion.—*London Law Journal*.